

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 NASA-01 COME-00 ACDA-07 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 /058 W  
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O 290835Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9774  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 7848

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: KS TP MARR  
SUBJ: BAKER-NUNN CAMERA

REF: (A) SEOUL 6901 (DTG 010801Z SEP 76), (B) STATE 228604

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS OF BAKER-NUNN PROJECT WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BELIEVE WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN OVERCOMING ROKG POSITION OUTLINED REF A, AND BELIEVE WE WILL BE IN POSITION TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT ON BASIS OF FOLLOWING PROCEDURE. EMBASSY WOULD PRESENT AIDE MEMOIRE TO ROKG (TEXT GIVEN BELOW), WHICH PROVIDES INFORMATION ORIGINALLY CONTAINED IN PROPOSED U.S. NOTE VERBALE, WITH ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BAKER-NUNN AND GEODSS PROJECT, REFERENCE TO MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY AND STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT AND REQUEST FOR ROKG ASSISTANCE IN MEETING PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE. ROKG HAS REQUESTED THIS APPROACH IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH BASIS FOR CHANGE FROM APPROACH ORIGINALLY UNDERTAKEN ON GEODSS WHERE WE SOUGHT ROKG CONCURRENCE FOR SURVEY. IN PRESENTING AIDE MEMOIRE WE WOULD INDICATE ORALLY OUR INTENTION TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH CONSTRUCTION FOR PROJECT. ROKG WOULD REPLY WITH SUBSEQUENT AIDE MEMOIRE, REFERRING TO PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS, INDICATING INTEREST IN COOPERATION REGARDING USE OF THE FACILITY, AND NOTING EXPECTATION OF FURTHER CONSULTATION IN EVENT U.S. WERE  
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TO UNDERTAKE GEODSS PROJECT.

2. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW THIS IS BEST WAY TO BE IN POSITION TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT TO MEET PROPOSED DEADLINE WITHOUT CONFRONTATION WITH ROKG. PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF AIDE MEMOIRES WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE REQUEST FOR AND GRANT OF PERMISSIONS AS SPECIFIED IN STATE 198197. THEIR CONFUSION OVER RELATIONSHIP OF THE TWO SYSTEMS (GEODSS VS. BAKER-NUNN) SEEMS GENUINE, AND HAVING ORIGINALLY SOUGHT THEIR CONCURRENCE IN THE GEODSS SURVEY IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW WE CAN MAKE ISSUE OF REQUESTING CONCURRENCE ON GEODSS ITSELF. UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS WE PLAN TO PRESENT FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 30, KOREA TIME.

QUOTE                      AIDE MEMOIRE

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES REFERS TO ITS AIDES-MEMOIRE OF JULY 15, 1975 AND MAY 19, 1976 REGARDING INSTALLATION OF FACILITIES IN KOREA FOR THE TRACKING OF OBJECTS IN OUTER SPACE, AND TO PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS REGARDING SUCH FACILITIES.

THE FIRST OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS REFERRED TO POSSIBLE SELECTION OF A SITE FOR A GROUND-BASED ELECTRO-OPTICAL DEEP SPACE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (GEODSS), PROGRAMMED FOR INSTALLATION IN FISCAL YEAR 1979. THIS PROGRAM CONTEMPLATED A FACILITY WITH UP TO 40 ACRES OF LAND AND ABOUT 70,000 SQUARE FEET OF BUILDING SPACE.

SUBSEQUENTLY, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT IMMEDIATE SPACE-TRACKING REQUIREMENTS DICTATE A NEED FOR INSTALLATION AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE OF A BAKER-NUNN CAMERA, A MUCH SMALLER INSTALLATION, USING EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN EXISTENCE, IN AN AREA ALREADY IN USE BY UNITED STATES FORCES, KOREA. THE GEODSS FACILITY REMAINS IN THE PLANNING STAGE AND ITS TIMETABLE HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED.

PENDING COMPLETION OF THE GEODSS FACILITY, WHICH IS A MORE SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM FOR THE SAME PURPOSE, THE BAKER-NUNN CAMERA FACILITY WILL SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SPACETRACK SYSTEM WHICH MAINTAINS ORBITAL DATA ON ALL MAN-MADE OBJECTS ORBITING THE EARTH. ORBITAL DATA ARE PUBLISHED BY PROJECT SPACETRACK IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON THE PEACEFUL USE OF OUTER SPACE AND ON THE RECOVERY AND RETURN OF SPACECRAFT, ASTRONAUTS, AND OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE. THE  
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BAKER-NUNN CAMERA FACILITY WILL (1) OBSERVE THOSE OBJECTS WHICH BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT SIZE OR TOO GREAT DISTANCE, CANNOT BE OBSERVED BY OTHER SPACETRACK SENSORS; (2) PROVIDE OBSERVATIONS FOR HIGHLY ACCURATE ORBIT DETERMINATION FOR SFRTEM CALIBRATION, EVALUATION, AND QUALITY CONTROL; AND (3) PROVIDE HIGHLY ACCURATE OBSERVATIONS OF SELECTED SATELLITES OF PARTICULAR SCIENTIFIC INTEREST. THE FACILITY WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN FURTHERING U.S. AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA SECURITY

INTERESTS. IT WILL BE OPERATED BY UNITED STATES FORCES, KOREA  
IN PURSUANCE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.

THE BAKER-NUNN CAMERA IS A TWENTY INCH APERTURE, TWENTY INCH  
FOCAL LENGTH, F-1 SCHMIDT CAMERA WITH A FIVE BY THIRTY DEGREE  
FIELD OF VIEW. IT IS SPECIALLY MOUNTED TO FACILITATE THE TRACKING  
OF EARTH SATELLITES. THE CAMERA IS MOUNTED IN A SMALL BUILDING  
WITH A DIVIDED ROOF WHICH SLIDES OFF TO PERMIT OBSERVATION  
OF THE SKY. THE CAMERA IS A PASSIVE DEVICE AND OPERATES ONLY  
AT NIGHT. IT EMITS NO SIGNAL OR ENERGY RADIATIONS, AND IS UN-  
RELATED TO ANY TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATION.

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 NASA-01 COME-00 ACDA-07 SSO-00

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O 290835Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9775  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
CSAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 7848

THE CAMERA FACILITY WILL BE LOCATED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES  
ARMY BARRACKS COMPOUND NEAR THE PULMOSAN COMMUNICATIONS RELAY  
SITE, WEST OF PUSAN. THIS FACILITY CAN BE OPEN TO VISITATIONS  
BY OFFICIALS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, IF DESIRED.

WHEN THE FACILITY IS INSTALLED, ANY RAW SATELLITE TRACKING  
DATA OBTAINED BY THE SITE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO REPUBLIC  
OF KOREA AUTHORITIES UPON REQUEST. IN ADDITION, THE SITE WILL  
HONOR REQUESTS FOR DATA AND OR PHOTOGRAPHS FROM REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORIES, SOCIETIES, OR UNIVERSITIES. THUS,  
WHEN THE CAMERA IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE OBSERVATIONS FOR  
PROJECT SPACETRACK, THE SITE CAN OBTAIN OBSERVATIONS OF COMETS,  
METEORS, ASTEROIDS, VARIABLE STARS, FLARE STARS, NOVA, OR OTHER

ITEMS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST, DEPENDING UPON WHAT REQUESTS, IF ANY, HAVE BEEN MADE. POTENTIAL DATA REQUESTERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO VISIT THE SITE AND BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE CAPABILITIES OF THE BAKER-NUNN CAMERA SO THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE.

THE BAKER-NUNN FACILITY WILL BE OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN (11) UNITED STATES CITIZEN CIVILIANS, AT THIS TIME EMPLOYEES OF BENDIX FIELD ENGINEERING CORPORATION, UNDER CONTRACT TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. THESE PERSONNEL WILL HAVE THE STATUS OF INVITED CONTRACTORS OR TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES.

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SENTATIVES AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPLICABLE PORTIONS OF THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. IN ADDITION, FROM TIME TO TIME, UNITED STATES CITIZENS EMPLOYED BY THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL PERFORM INSPECTIONS AND STAFF ASSISTANCE VISITS TO THE SITE.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE WILL REQUIRE THE OPERATION OF THE SITE FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST FIVE YEARS. WHEN MORE ADVANCED SATELLITE TRACKING SENSORS ARE ESTABLISHED TO BETTER PERFORM THE MISSION ASSIGNED TO BAKER-NUNN, THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE WILL CEASE OPERATION OF THE PULMOSAN BAKER-NUNN CAMERA.

THE CURRENT PLAN FOR INSTALLATION OF THE BAKER-NUNN CAMERA PROVIDES FOR ITS ENTRY INTO OPERATION BY JANUARY 1, 1977. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN FULFILLING THIS PLAN. END QUOTE.  
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## Message Attributes

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